

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method, comprising:
2 digitally signing a web page that includes a trigger with a private key to
3 provide a digital signature;
4 transmitting the web page, the digital signature, and a digital certificate from
5 a first computer system to a second computer system; and
6 responsive to the trigger, automatically verifying the digital signature on the
7 second computer system using a public key corresponding to the private key.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein transmitting comprises transmitting
2 the web page, the digital signature, and the digital certificate including the public
3 key corresponding to the private key from the first computer system to the second
4 computer system.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein transmitting comprises transmitting
2 the web page, the digital signature, the digital certificate, and an object from the first
3 computer system to the second computer system.

1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein automatically verifying comprises
2 responsive to the trigger, automatically verifying the digital signature on the second
3 computer system using the object.

1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein digitally signing comprises:
2 hashing the web page to provide a message digest; and
3 digitally signing the message digest with a private key to provide the digital
4 signature.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the trigger includes one or more of the
2 following: a flag, variable, one or more lines of code, and subroutine.

1 7. The method of claim 1 further comprising one of the following:
2 embedding the trigger in the web page;
3 incorporating the trigger in the web page;
4 appending the trigger to the web page; and
5 placing the trigger in a HTTP header of the web page.

1 8. A computer system, comprising:
2 a memory including one or more instructions; and
3 a processor coupled to the memory, the processor, responsive to the one or
4 more instructions, to,
5 transmit a request for a web page over a communication link,
6 receive the web page including a trigger, a digital signature, and a
7 digital certificate, and
8 responsive to the trigger, automatically verify the digital signature of
9 the web page using a public key corresponding to a private key used to
10 digitally sign the web page.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the processor, in response to the one
2 or more instructions, to receive the web page, digital signature, and the digital
3 certificate including the public key.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the processor, in response to the one
2 or more instructions, to receive the web page, digital signature, digital certificate,
3 and an object, said object being executed by the processor to automatically verify the
4 digital signature of the web page.

1 11. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the processor automatically verifies
2 the digital signature of the web page by
3 hashing the web page to provide a calculated message digest;
4 decrypting the digital signature using the public key to provide a recovered
5 message digest; and
6 comparing the calculated message digest and the recovered message digest.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the trigger includes one or more of
2 the following: a flag, variable, one or more lines of code, and subroutine.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the memory includes a software
2 routine for plug-in comprising the one or more instructions.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the memory includes one of a
2 browser software program and a plug-in comprising the one or more instructions.

1 15. A method, comprising:
2 receiving a request for a web page;
3 digitally signing the web page that includes a trigger with a private key to
4 provide a digital signature, said trigger for causing a program on a computer system
5 to automatically verify the digital signature of the web page; and
6 transmitting the web page, the digital signature, and a digital certificate to the
7 computer system in response to receiving the request for the web page.

1 16. The method of claim 15 wherein transmitting comprises transmitting
2 the web page, the digital signature, and the digital certificate including a public key
3 corresponding to the private key to the computer system, in response to receiving
4 the request for the web page.

1 17. The method of claim 15 wherein transmitting comprises transmitting
2 the web page, the digital signature, the digital certificate, and an object to the
3 computer system, in response to receiving the request for the web page.

1 18. The method of claim 17 wherein said object, on the computer system,
2 for detecting the trigger, and in response to detecting the trigger, automatically
3 verifying the digital signature of the web page.

1 19. The method of claim 15 wherein the trigger includes one or more of
2 the following: a flag, variable, one or more lines of code, and subroutine.

1 20. The method of claim 15 further comprising one of the following:
2 embedding the trigger in the web page;
3 incorporating the trigger in the web page;
4 appending the trigger to the web page; and
5 placing the trigger in a HTTP header of the web page.

1 21. A method, comprising:
2 transmitting a web page that includes a trigger from a first computer system
3 to a second computer system;
4 displaying the web page on a display of the second computer system;
5 detecting the trigger by a program executed on a processor of the second
6 computer system;
7 automatically requesting that the web page be digitally signed;
8 digitally signing the web page with a private key to provide a digital
9 signature; and
10 transmitting the web page, digital signature, and a digital certificate to the
11 first computer system.

1 22. The method of claim 21 wherein the trigger includes one or more of
2 the following: a flag, variable, one or more lines of code, and subroutine.

1 23. The method of claim 21 further comprising one of the following:
2 embedding the trigger in the web page;
3 incorporating the trigger in the web page;
4 appending the trigger to the web page; and
5 placing the trigger in a HTTP header of the web page.

1 24. The method of claim 21 wherein the program is one or more of the
2 following: a plug in and browser program.